



20th Nov 2013

Sugar must be part of a comprehensive trade deal - there can be no exclusion of any agriculture products in the currently being negotiated Trans Pacific Partnership

CANEGROWERS is an advocate and strong supporter for the completion of trade agreements that deliver commercially worthwhile outcomes for Australian agriculture. For too long the interests of farmers has taken a back seat in these trade agreements or have been cast aside, as was sugar in the Australia-US FTA. This must not be repeated in the TPP.

The three most important trade issues for sugar are:

- Securing improved market access for sugar in all TPP economies, particularly the USA, Mexico and Japan by removing tariffs and quotas and developing rules of origin that enable the free flow of sugar (raw and refined) and sugar-containing products around the region.
- Finalising the Korea-Australia FTA to remove the 3% tariff Korea imposes on Australian raw sugar exports. This duty was reimposed unilaterally on 1 July this year and represents a serious impediment that will jeopardise the continuation of raw sugar trade (one million tonnes valued at approximately \$500 million per annum) between our two countries.
- Using all means available (in Brussels and Geneva) to ensure the European Commission abides by its WTO commitments on sugar export subsidies.

The TPP must be a comprehensive modern trade agreement that secures commercially worthwhile improvements in market access for sugar and other agricultural commodities for the benefit of Australia's rural and regional communities.

The trade portfolio is an important one and, in the present environment of increasing protectionism around the world and in our region, it will be challenging. We are committed to achieving success and are working closely with Trade Minister Robb and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to achieve success.

Debra Burden B. Bus FAICD FAIM | Regional Manager – Burdekin

CANEGROWERS Burdekin | T: 07 4790 3603 | F: 07 4783 4914 | M: 0417 709 435 | 141 Young Street AYR QLD 4807
[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#) www.canegrowers.com.au debra_burden@canegrowers.com.au